

AS MODERN HISTORY HOLIDAY PREPARATION

You will be studying two distinct periods of British and European History in Year 12

The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007

This option provides for the study in depth of the key political, economic, social and international changes which helped to mould Britain in the second half of the 20th century. It explores concepts such as government and opposition, class, social division and cultural change. It encourages students to reflect on Britain's changing place in the world as well as the interrelationship between political policies, economic developments and political survival.

Part one: building a New Britain, 1951–1979

The Affluent Society, 1951–1964

- Conservative governments and reasons for political dominance: Churchill, Eden, Macmillan and home as political leaders; domestic policies; internal Labour divisions; reasons for Conservatives' fall from power.
- Economic developments: post-war boom; balance of payments issues and 'stop-go' policies.
- Social developments: rising living standards; the impact of affluence and consumerism; changing social attitudes and tensions; class and 'the Establishment'; the position of women; attitudes to immigration; racial violence; the emergence of the 'teenager' and youth culture.
- Foreign relations: EFTA and attempts to join the EEC; relations with and policies towards USA and USSR; debates over the nuclear deterrent; Korean War; Suez; the 'Winds of Change' and decolonisation.

The Sixties, 1964–1970

- Wilson and the Labour governments: Wilson's ideology and leadership; economic policies and problems; devaluation; industrial relations; the trade unions; other domestic policies; Labour divisions; the beginning of the 'troubles' in Northern Ireland; the end of post-war consensus; loss of 1970 election.
- Liberal reforming legislation: private members' bills and the end of capital punishment; divorce reform; the legalisation of abortion; the legalisation of homosexual relations; educational reform.
- Social and cultural change: the expansion of the mass media; growth in leisure activities; the impact of scientific developments; the reduction in censorship; progress towards female equality; changes in moral attitudes; youth culture and the 'permissive society'; anti-Vietnam war riots; issues of immigration and race.
- Relations with and policies towards USA, particularly issue of Vietnam; response to world affairs and relations with Europe; decolonisation including 'withdrawal East of Suez' and Rhodesia.

The end of Post-War Consensus, 1970–1979

- Heath's government: Heath as leader; political and economic policies; industrial relations and the miners' strikes; the 'troubles' in Northern Ireland, including the Sunningdale Agreement.
- Labour governments of Wilson and Callaghan: political, economic and industrial problems and policies; problems of Northern Ireland.
- Society in the 1970s: progress of feminism; the Sex Discrimination Act; race and immigration; youth; environmentalism.
- Britain's entry into and relations with Europe; the state of the 'special relationship' with USA; attitudes to USSR and China.

Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964

This option allows students to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period through the following key questions:

- How was Russia governed and how did political authority change and develop?
- Why did opposition develop and how effective was it?
- How and with what results did the economy develop and change?
- What was the extent of social and cultural change?
- How important were ideas and ideology?
- How important was the role of individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?

Part one: Autocracy, Reform and Revolution: Russia, 1855–1917

Trying to preserve autocracy, 1855–1894

- Political authority and the state of Russia: autocracy; the political, social and economic condition of Russia in 1855 and the impact of the Crimean War.
- Political authority and attempts at reform: Alexander II; emancipation of the serfs and attempts at domestic and military reform.
- Government and Tsars: Alexander II and Alexander III as rulers; attitudes to and imposition of autocracy; key developments.
- Political authority in action: Russification; treatment of ethnic minorities and Jews.
- Opposition: ideas and ideologies; individuals; liberals and radical groups and the Tsarist reaction.
- Economic and social developments: industrial developments and the land issue; social divisions; nobles, landowners and position of the peasantry; the cultural influence of the Church

The collapse of autocracy, 1894–1917

- Political authority, government and Tsar; Nicholas II as ruler: political developments to 1914; 1905 Revolution; Duma government.
- Economic developments to 1914: industrial and agricultural growth and change.
- Social developments to 1914: change and conditions of working and living in towns and countryside; social divisions; cultural changes.
- Opposition: ideas and ideologies, liberalism, socialism; Marxism; individuals and radical groups.
- Political authority, opposition and the state of Russia in wartime: the political, economic and social problems of wartime; opposition and the collapse of autocracy; the political developments of 1917.
- Political authority, opposition and government: the Bolshevik takeover and the establishment of Bolshevik government by December 1917; opposition.

HOLIDAY WORK

Preparing for AS History: Books and DVDs

Please read or watch one from each category:

1. For the Russian module: read the book 'Russia: A 1,000 year chronicle of the Wild East' by Martin Sixsmith ISBN 978-1-8499-0073-7. The series is also available on an audio disc.
2. For the British module: either watch series 1 'A History of Modern Britain' by Andrew Marr or read the book of the series by Andrew Marr 'A History of Modern Britain'.

